Sl.No.	State	Capacity (Lines)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	14,300
2.	Assam	42,550
3.	Manipur	8,300
4.	Meghalaya	7,300
5.	Mizoram	8,300
6.	Nagaland	8,300
7.	Tripura	6,300

Reply relating to Department of Post

(a) As far as Postal facilities are concerned there are a total of 2931 Post Offices and 57 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) in the North East Region as on 31-03-2003. Though average area served per post office is 60.84 Sq. Km. as against the national average of 21.13 Sq. Km. The population served per Post Office is 4046 in the North East Region which compares favourably with the national average of 6602. Post Offices are opened subject to distance and income norms. There are relaxed norms for hilly, tribal and remote areas which are being applied in the case of North East Region.

During the Ninth Plan the Department opened 121 Post Offices and 170 PSSKs in the North East. During 2002-03, 10 Post Offices and 56 PSSKs were opened and in the current year i.e. 2003-04 the target is to open 11 Post Offices and 50 PSSKs in the North East Region.

(b) and (c) Not applicable for Department of Post.

Telephone connections in Madhya Pradesh

204. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state-

(a) the details of persons on waiting list for telephone connections in "Madhya Pradesh as on the 31st October, 2003;

(b) the steps taken to clear the wait-listed applications; and

(c) by when, the list would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) A total of 14024 applicants are in waiting list for telephone connections in Madhya Pradesh as on 31st October, 2003, out of which 11612 are in rural areas. Most of the rural waiting list is in the far flung areas.

(b) and (c) BSNL has planned to provide 1,06,000 DELs (Direct Exchange Lines) during 2003-2004 on wired Line and WLL, of which 25,000 are in rural areas. Most of the waiting list is expected to be cleared progressively by the end of current financial year subject to availability of resources.

Telecom facilities in rural areas of Bhopal

205. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased
to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to provide public telephone facilities including Fax/STD/ISD etc. in the rural areas of Bhopal district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Sir, .STD/ISD public telephones are already working in rural areas of Bhopal district of Madhya Pradesh. The franchisees are at liberty to install fax machines on their STD/ISD PCOs to provide fax services.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Introduction of Mobile phones for Tripura

206. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) by when, mobile phones would be introduced in Tripura;